

January 11, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McConnell, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

We the undersigned associations represent critical stakeholders in our national security enterprise. Our organizations believe that a strong, adequately funded defense posture is vital for our economic stability and our ability to both deter and, if necessary, engage threats to our nation and our allies. A strong diplomatic posture complements those capabilities and is fundamental for our ability to build and maintain key relationships around the world that protect U. S. interests and provide stability in many volatile regions.

We write today because all of these bedrock missions of our government are now threatened by the prospects of a long-term continuing resolution (CR) extending well into 2022. We wholeheartedly agree with Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III's comments that a yearlong CR is "an unprecedented move that would cause enormous, if not irreparable, damage for a wide range of bipartisan priorities – from defense readiness and modernization, to research and development, to public health."

Like all federal agencies and government missions, the Department of Defense is harmed in several ways by CRs. First, it is forced to defer any new start programs or projects, and suspend production rate increases for weapons, platforms, and other equipment that are needed to meet our security requirements. Second, funds are misaligned between military services and programs, as activities naturally fluctuate year to year and CRs do not accommodate those changes. Third, military services are forced to reduce necessary readiness activities to pay for cost-of-living and pay and benefits increases without funds being provided specifically for those purposes. Finally, defense industry workforces are subject to seemingly endless stop-and-start contract cycles, creating inefficiency and disruption that ripples through the defense supply chain with disproportionate effects on smaller companies.

FY22 is the first year in a decade where discretionary spending levels were not fixed in statute by the Budget Control Act. We have long maintained that Congress should instead set these levels in the annual budget and appropriations process after careful review of agency needs in

real-time. In fact, this is a bedrock principle of federal fiscal and budget policy going back decades if not centuries. It would be a devastating signal to send to our warfighters, their families, our allies and partners, and the dedicated industries that support them, if Congress cannot provide adequate funding for FY22 in a timely fashion.

Again, we urge you in the strongest possible terms to expeditiously finalize all 12 full-year appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022 prior to the expiration of the current CR on February 18, 2022. We appreciate your time and attention to this request and look forward to working with you to reduce the harmful impacts of continuing resolutions on federal agencies and the contractors who support agency missions.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)

Air Force Association (AFA)

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)

Global Special Operations Forces Foundation (Global SOF)

Marine Corps League (MCL)

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA)

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)

Professional Services Council (PSC)

Reserve Organization of America (ROA)